George Mason University Course Approval Form
Office of the Registrar
New__X_____ Modify_______ Delete_______

Department: Public and International Affairs        Course Abbrev/Number__GOVT 755

Prepared by: Julianne Mahler, Dept. Public & International Affairs          Ext: 3-1414

Full Course Title: Seminar in Politics and Bureaucracy

Abbreviated Course Title (Inventory will only accommodate 24 characters):
Sem Politics & Bur

Term First (new courses): F 2006          Course Level: GA
UL=Undergrad lower
UU=Undergrad upper
GF=Grad lower (500-600)
GA= Grad upper (700 + )

Credit Hours: (Fixed)__3__ (Var.)______          Catalog Format : (3:3:0)

Previous Course ID :_________________ Last Term Course will be Offered:______________

Repeatable for Credit: N
D=Yes, but not within same term (indicate max hrs) Up to:
T=Yes, within same term (indicate max hrs) (Maximum hours)
N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code 1: Sem
LEC=Lecture
LAB=Lab

Activity Code 2:
RCT=Recitation
SEM=Seminar
STU=Studio
INT=Internship
IND=Independent Study

Maximum Enrollment:______________

Prereq: GOVT 510

Approval:
Department or Program:_________________________ Date:__________________________
(Signature)

College Council:_________________________ Date:__________________________
(Signature - if applicable)

Graduate Council:*_________________________ Date:__________________________
(Signature - Provost or Graduate Council Representative)

*All courses numbered 500 or above must be forwarded to Graduate Council once approved at the departmental or college level. OtR 11/99
GOVT 755  
_Seminar in Politics and Bureaucracy_

Department of Public and International Affairs  
Fall 2006

**Course Objectives:** This research seminar will explore research and theory on the political causes and effects of actions of bureaucratic agencies of government. Various perspectives on the strategies and motives of agencies and from Wilsonian to political economy will be considered. We will examine the origins of agencies, influences on the directions that decision and programs take, sources of control within organizations, the forms of external accountability, the pathologies of bureaucracies and the contributions bureaucracies make to effective and just governance.

**Course Requirements:** This course is a graduate seminar. By rotation, students will be responsible for directing the class by serving as discussion leaders for the reading assignments. Discussion leaders will turn in short commentaries (3-5 pages) describing the themes and controversies in the readings on the day(s) they are responsible for leading the class.

The bulk of the grade for the course is a 20-page research paper on a problem in the theory or research on bureaucratic politics. This paper should examine a problem in organizational direction and accountability, in the implementation of law and policy, or on the internal or external influences on decision making and program development. Students are encouraged to discuss their paper topics early with the instructor.

The weights that will be attached to the major course assignments are as follows: Participation: 10% (based on contributions to discussions)  
Commentaries on readings by discussion leaders (altogether): 30%,  
Research Paper: 60%

**Books**

_**George Krause and Kenneth Meier, Politics, Policy, and Organizations : Frontiers in the Scientific Study of Bureaucracy (UMP, 2003)**_

**Marissa Golden,** What Motivates Bureaucrats? Politics and Administration during the Reagan Years (Columbia, 2000)  
**Gerald Garvey,** Facing the Bureaucracy: Living and Dying in a Public Agency (Jossey-Bass, 1993)_


Additional articles will be available on JSTOR or from e-reserve.

**Course Readings and Schedule**

**Week 1**  
**Introduction: The Political Bureaucracy**

**Week 2**  
**Political Influence in Regulation and Policy Making**

Krause and Meier, Politics, Policy, and Organizations

**Week 3-4**  
**Organization and Bureaucracy: Internal Controls**

Wilson, Bureaucracy, Ch 1-9

Golden, What Motivates Bureaucrats

**Week 5-6**  
**The Internal Politics of Control**

Wilson, Ch. 10-20

Garvey, Facing the Bureaucracy

**Week 7-8**  
**Accountability and External Control**

John Huber, Deliberate Discretion

B. Dan Wood and Richard W. Waterman, Bureaucratic Dynamics
Week 9
**Congressional Oversight:**
Aberback, J. D. *Keeping a Watchful Eye*


Week 10-11
**The Political Economy of Public Management: Transactions, Costs, and Inducements for Public Trust**


Calvert, Delegating Powers

Weeks 12-13
Paper workshops: Presentation of Student Papers for Discussion and Feedback

Week 14
**Conclusions: Future of Accountability**